

**Introduced by Senator Wolk  
(Coauthor: Senator Liu)**

February 23, 2012

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An act to add Section 10601.3 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to child welfare services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1279, as introduced, Wolk. Child welfare services system: information access: outcomes.

Under existing law, the state, through the State Department of Social Services and county welfare departments, is required to establish and support a public system of statewide child welfare services.

Existing law requires the department to establish the California Child and Family Service Review System, in order to review all county child welfare systems, as specified. Under existing law, these reviews cover child protective services, foster care, adoption, family preservation, family support, and independent living.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to authorize the department to obtain access to designated information held by other state agencies as it relates to outcomes for children and youth involved in the child welfare system, for purposes of monitoring those outcomes and improving the operations of the child welfare system. This bill would require the department to consult with state and local agencies, child welfare advocates, and other appropriate entities, to determine the outcomes identified pursuant to the bill. The bill would require the department to provide information to the budget and appropriate policy committees of both houses of the Legislature, regarding identifying and monitoring the specified outcomes, and related findings and recommendations for needed statutory, regulatory, and fiscal changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 10601.3 is added to the Welfare and  
2 Institutions Code, to read:
- 3 10601.3. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to authorize the  
4 State Department of Social Services to obtain access to information  
5 held by other state agencies as it relates to outcomes for children  
6 and youth involved in the child welfare system, for purposes of  
7 monitoring those outcomes and improving the operations of the  
8 child welfare system.
- 9 (b) The department shall identify key outcomes for children in  
10 the child welfare system, including, but not limited to, outcomes  
11 associated with K-12 education, higher education, criminal justice  
12 involvement, employment, and suicide, as provided in this section.
- 13 (c) Outcome indicators shall reflect outcomes at the point of  
14 separation from the child welfare system, as well as outcomes after  
15 separation, including at least one point in time at least five years  
16 following separation.
- 17 (d) The department shall consult with state and local agencies,  
18 child welfare advocates, and other appropriate entities, as  
19 determined by the Director of Social Services, to determine the  
20 outcomes identified pursuant to this section.
- 21 (e) By January 1, 2015, the department shall provide information  
22 to the budget and appropriate policy committees of both houses  
23 of the Legislature, regarding all of the following:
- 24 (1) The department's progress in identifying outcome measures  
25 for the child welfare services system, including measures of  
26 outcomes for youth who leave the system, as they relate to K-12  
27 education, higher education, criminal justice involvement,  
28 employment, suicide, and any other relevant outcomes, as identified  
29 by the department.
- 30 (2) The department's progress in monitoring those outcomes,  
31 including, but not limited to, the timelines for monitoring and  
32 reporting, the process to be used, and any funding or staffing  
33 increases necessary at the state or local level to implement the  
34 requirements of this section.

1 (3) The department's findings and recommendations for  
2 implementing this section, including information on common  
3 statutory, regulatory, or fiscal barriers identified as inhibiting the  
4 requirements of this section, and recommendations for overcoming  
5 those barriers.

6 (f) The requirement for submitting a report imposed pursuant  
7 to subdivision (e) is inoperative on January 1, 2019, pursuant to  
8 Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

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